

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (CONCEPT)

How do we move the people within the 1,000 square miles of Hillsborough County? How do we move people who work across county borders? How do we get people to work with gas prices at \$3/gallon and climbing? How do we address the needs of South County's explosive growth - over 4,000 workforce housing units in just Ruskin approved with no public transportation planned into the development?

These are HUGE questions, **and it's time the community addressed them!**

How can the business community, development industry, and neighborhoods help make public transportation work for them? Why aren't we making agreements with surrounding counties to get their citizens to work in our employment centers? Why are we not aggressively pursuing agreements with such entities as Bay Area Commuter Services to link our employees to our employment centers with ride shares and vans? What partnerships have we not explored to assist in funding our needs? With the new Growth Management bill (Senate Bill 360) going into effect in stages over the next two years on transportation, water and school concurrency, there is additional opportunity for state-matched funding.

And the conversation has begun...

This is NOT about HARTline; this conversation is about our public transportation needs and its funding. This **community**-driven conversation will take place with all interested partners the beginning of next year with only one meeting. The concept of this conversation is to have all the partners obtaining the same information regarding who and what we are as a community; what we want for public transportation; and, exploring the dozens of partnerships, both public and private, that are available to us. The **community** will then be urged to pursue those partnerships in the course of a year or so and then come back together to evaluate our progress with a second meeting.

How do we know the time is right for this conversation? With a few telephone calls, over 35 partners (see list below) joined in the conversation and we have just starting calling! From business organizations to the development industry to civic and environmental groups to the disabled and elderly to various governmental entities, the response was overwhelmingly appreciative. "What we've heard from almost every partner so far is 'Thank you for doing this, it is long overdue,'" stated Denise Layne, Executive Director of C4RG.

So, when's the last time we had a conversation about public transportation that we didn't talk taxes? Before talk tax, we, the **community**, would like to talk turkey about our public transportation -- instead of a reactionary effort, we can place ourselves in a pro-active position!

Our conversation is a CONCEPT we hope brings about awareness, participation and solutions for the future of our community.

REPRESENTING

Builder's Association of Greater Tampa
Carrollwood Area Association Of Neighborhoods
Carrollwood Area Business Association
Chamber Committee of 100
City of Tampa
City of Zephyrhills Mayor
Coalition 4 Responsible Growth, Inc.
Environment Matters, Inc.
FASTA
FDOT
Frank Sanchez
Greater Tampa Board of Realtors
HART
Hillsborough County NOW
Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission
Hillsborough Advocates for Improved Transit
Hillsborough County Commissioner
Hillsborough County MPO
Keystone Civic Association
League of Women Voters / Hillsborough County
Lutz Civic Association
Mainstream Companies, Inc.
New Port Richey Councilwoman
Pasco County Commissioner
Ruskin Community Development Board
School District of Hillsborough County
Sierra Club, Tampa Bay Group
Southshore Roundtable
Tampa Bay Partnership
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
Tampa Downtown Partnership
Tampa Housing Authority
Tomorrow Matters!
Town 'N Country Alliance
Yes! Of America
Zoning Quest